CLAIMS

1. A data visualisation system comprising:

    a data memory in which is maintained one or more fact data sets comprising an identifier and one or more attributes, and one or more finite element data sets wherein the members of each finite data set defines the range of possible values for at least one attribute of at least one fact data set;

    a retrieval component arranged to retrieve one or more data sets from the memory; and

    a display component arranged to display a graphical representation of a chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets in the memory as a series of data values.

2. A data visualisation system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the graphical representation has a substantially circular configuration.

3. A data visualisation system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the graphical representation comprises a circular graph.

4. A data visualisation system as claimed in claim 2, arranged to retrieve one finite data set and divide the graphical representation into two or more segments, each segment matching a member of one of the finite element sets and an attribute of at least one member of the chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets .

5. A data visualisation system as claimed in claim 4 further arranged to retrieve a further finite element data set and divide each segment into one or more sub-segments, each sub-segment matching a member of the further finite data set and an attribute of at least one of the members of the chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets included in the segment.

6. A data visualisation system as claimed in claim 2 where the chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets is represented by one or more nodes within the representation

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7. A data visualisation system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the graphical representation is arranged to create a new circle of nodes on the outer circumference of the graph whenever the graph divides, the number of nodes equal to the number of new segments, and each node in the new circle substantially the same distance from the centre of the graph.

8. A data visualisation system as claimed in claim 6 arranged to superimpose contoured data representations around each node in the representation such that each data point is displayed as a local maximum.

9. A data visualisation computer system comprising:

one or more fact data sets comprising an identifier and one or more attributes, and one or more finite element data sets wherein the members of each finite data set defines the range of possible values for at least one attribute of at least one fact data set all data sets maintained in a data memory;

a retrieval component arranged to retrieve one or more data sets from the memory; and

a display component arranged to display a graphical representation of a chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets in the memory as a series of data values.

10. A data visualisation computer program as claimed in claim 9 wherein the graphical representation has a substantially circular configuration.

11. A data visualisation computer program as claimed in claim 9 wherein the graphical representation comprises a circular graph.

12. A data visualisation computer program as claimed in claim 10, arranged to retrieve one finite data set and divide the graphical representation into two or more segments, each segment matching a member of one of the finite element sets and an attribute of at least one member of the chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets .

13. A data visualisation computer program as claimed in claim 12 further arranged to retrieve a further finite element data set and divide each segment into one or more sub-segments, each sub-segment matching a member of the further finite data set and an attribute of at least one of the members of the chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets included in the segment.

14. A data visualisation computer program as claimed in claim 10 where the chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets is represented by one or more nodes within the representation.

15. A data visualisation computer program as claimed in claim 14 wherein the graphical representation is arranged to create a new circle of nodes on the outer circumference of the graph whenever the graph divides, the number of nodes equal to the number of new segments, and each node in the new circle substantially the same distance from the centre of the graph.

16. A data visualisation computer program as claimed in claim 14 arranged to superimpose contoured data representations around each node in the representation such that each data point is displayed as a local maximum.

17. A method of data visualisation comprising the steps of storing in a data memory one or more fact data sets comprising an identifier and one or more attributes, and one or more finite element data sets wherein the membersof each finite data set defines the range of possible values for at least one attribute of at least one fact data set; retrieving one or more data sets from the memory; and displaying a graphical representation of a chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets in the memory as a series of data values.

18. A method of data visualisation as claimed in claim 17 wherein the graphical representation has a substantially circular configuration.

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19. A method of data visualisation as claimed in claim 17, wherein the graphical representation comprises a circular graph.

20. A method of data visualisation as claimed in claim 18 further comprising the steps of retrieving one finite data set; and dividing the graphical representation into two or more segments, each segment matching a member of one of the finite element sets and an attribute of at least one member of the chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets.

21. A method of data visualisation as claimed in claim 20 further comprising the steps of retrieving a further finite element data set; and dividing each segment into one or more sub-segments, each sub-segment matching a member of the further finite data set and an attribute of at least one of the members of the chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets included in the segment.

22. A method of data visualisation as claimed in claim 18 further comprising the step of representing the chosen subset of the set of all fact data sets as one or more nodes within the representation.

23. A method of data visualisation as claimed in claim 22 further comprising the step of creating a new circle of nodes on the outer circumference of the graph whenever the graph divides, the number of nodes equal to the number of new segments, and each node in the new circle substantially the same distance from the centre of the graph.

24. A method of data visualisation as claimed in claim 22 further comprising the steps of superimposing contoured data representations around each node in the representation such that each data point is displayed as a local maximum.